

the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada revealed that 80 percent of the seniors in the program registered to vote compared to a school average among seniors of 37 percent.

Many of us here in this chamber are fortunate to have experienced firsthand the quality of this program. Each spring, outstanding classes of students from the around the country come to Washington to participate in the final round of national competitive hearings on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. While these students' knowledge of the Constitution is impressive, what is most striking is the students' excitement about the Constitution and their government.

This legislation would assure that students across the nation will continue to have access to this quality program. In addition, it would assure all of us of a stronger foundation for our country's future. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation forward and would urge others to join us as sponsors of this important measure.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 28, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,297,448,741.19 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, two hundred ninety-seven million, four hundred forty-eight thousand, seven hundred forty-one dollars and nineteen cents).

One year ago, September 28, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,525,126,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-five billion, one hundred twenty-six million).

Five years ago, September 28, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,672,477,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred seventy-two billion, four hundred seventy-seven million).

Ten years ago, September 28, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,844,962,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred forty-four billion, nine hundred sixty-two million).

Fifteen years ago, September 28, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,572,266,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred seventy-two billion, two hundred sixty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,075,031,448,741.19 (Four trillion, seventy-five billion, thirty-one million, four hundred forty-eight thousand, seven hundred forty-one dollars and nineteen cents) during the past 15 years.

#### LILLY ENDOWMENT INC. GRANT TO TRIBAL COLLEGES

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Lilly Endowment for their exceptional contributions on behalf of educational opportunities for minorities. In particular, I would like to commend them on their

recent announcement awarding \$30 million to the American Indian College Fund. These dollars would be used to replace buildings at 30 tribal colleges on reservations in the West and Midwest.

It is important that we continue to support ways to maintain educational opportunities for tribal colleges, who receive a significantly lower level of funding per student than mainstream community colleges. Because of these scarce resources, and the need to maintain and increase academic standards, capital improvements have been forced to the bottom of the priority list.

This private donation from the Lilly Endowment is the largest ever made to a Native American organization. These funds will be used to pay for much needed construction of modern classrooms, labs and libraries. This extraordinary contribution will allow these colleges to give their students the best educational opportunities possible.

It is critical that Tribal colleges have the resources to provide a combination of traditional academics and Native American culture for their students. American Indian students who attend tribal schools are far more likely to succeed at four year institutions. More Native Americans have been attending college, but still at a far lower rate than members of other minority groups. We need to ensure that they are helped to reach their full potential.

As a Senator for a state with 7 tribal colleges, I understand the important role they play in the Tribes' hopes for future generations. Academic success is key to raising the standard of living and quality of life for all tribal members.

Mr. President, I feel we need to do everything in our power until we are successful in addressing the many challenges facing the education needs of our American Indian population. I salute Lilly Endowment's increasingly generous efforts towards this goal.

During my time in the Senate I have fought, and will continue to work to help make education accessible and affordable to all Montanans. Tribal colleges are a priority to me. I will continue to look for ways to increase federal spending at these institutions.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting withdrawals and sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 1:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

##### ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

A message from the House of Representatives, received during the adjournment of the Senate, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 2605. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 68. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill and joint resolution (H.J. Res. 68) were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 209. An act to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 417. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

The following concurrent resolution, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 180. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should not have granted clemency to terrorists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5431. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reform of Affirmative Action in Federal Procurement" (DFARS Case 98-D007), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5432. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Administrative Law), Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Navy Regulations" (RIN0703-AA55), received September 27, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.